

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04

OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 CEQ-01 EPA-04 L-03

/090 W

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R 301800Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2476

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 10063

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, IMCO

SUBJ: IMCO MEPC III

1. SUMMARY: THIRD SESSION OF MEPC WAS HELD 23-27 JUNE 1975. SESSION ATTENDED BY 38 DELEGATIONS AND 12 OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS. ALL AGENDA ITEMS (MEPC III/1) CONSIDERED WITH ITEMS 5 (RECEPTION FACILITIES), 6 (SEPARATORS AND OIL MONITORS) AND 7 (ANNEX II) RECEIVING EMPHASIS BY AD HOC WORKING GROUP. ITEM 8 (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE), 15 (GUIDELINES FOR TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT) AND 16 (NEW SUB-COMMITTEE) RECEIVED EMPHASIS BY PLENARY. COMMITTEE ALSO CONSIDERED SUGGESTION RECEIVED FROM US PRIVATE CITIZEN VIA UNEP TO APPLY 1973 MARPOL CONVENTION SEGREGATED BALLAST REQUIREMENTS TO EXISTING TANKERS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE THIRD SESSION OF MEPC WAS HELD IN LONDON 23-27 JUNE UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF ERIKSSON (SWEDEN). SESSION ATTENDED BY 38 DELEGATIONS (130 DELEGATES) AND 12 OBSERVE ORGANIZATIONS. US REPRESENTATIVE TO SESSION WAS RADM R.I. PRICE, USCG. AD HOC WORKING GROUPS FORMED TO CONSIDER AGENDA ITEMS 5 (RECEPTION FACILITIES), 6 (OIL WATER SEPARATORS AND OIL MONITORING EQUIPMENT), 7 (PROCEDURES AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHEMICAL TANKERS). US DELEGATION UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTICIPATED IN THE AD HOC WORKING GROUPS AS WELL AS IN

COMMITTEE DRAFTING GROUP.

3. SEC GEN IN OPENING REMARKS AND IN PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH US DEL EMPHASIZED NEED FOR MEPC TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN FIELD OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. SUBJECT RECEIVED GENERAL DISCUSSION AS TO NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF MARINE POLLUTION. IN ORDER TO PROGRESS CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM US DELEGATION SUGGESTED THAT A "WORKSHOP" BE HELD DURING THE FOURTH SESSION WHERE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD MEET WITH EXPERT TO SEEK DETAILED ADVICE ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS PRACTICAL ASPECT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 1973 CONVENTION, MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLANS, PREVENTION OF MARITIME ACCIDENTS, AND METHODS OF DEALING WITH SPILLAGE. SUGGESTION WELL RECEIVED BY COMMITTEE PARTICULARLY MEMBERS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SEC GEN EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL AND PRIVATE APPRECIATION FOR EFFORTS BY US DEL TO FURTHER TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THIS MANNER.

4. COMMITTEE RECEIVED A SUGGESTION FROM US PRIVATE CITIZEN SUBMITTED VIA UNEP THAT 1973 MARPOL SEGREGATED BALLAST STANDARDS BE APPLIED TO EXISTING TANKERS. THE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED THAT THE APPROACH WAS NOT A NEW INNOVATION BUT THAT THE SUGGESTION ARISES ON THIS OCCASION BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT DEPRESSED STATE OF THE TANKER MARKET. THE COMMITTEE NOTED THE OBVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT OF THE SUGGESTION AND AGREED IT NEEDED CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF SEVERAL ECONOMIC, LEGAL AND SHIP STRUCTURE TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS. THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO CONSIDER THE SUGGESTION AT ITS NEXT SESSION AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY. IT ALSO REQUESTED MSC CONSIDER THE SUGGESTION.

5. IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR POSSIBLE INTERVENTION UNDER 1969 INTERVENTION CONVENTION, COMMITTEE AGREED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES TO COVER OIL. US DEL SOUGHT DEFINITION OF OBJECTIVES OF GUIDELINES, SUGGESTED TASK BEGIN BY DEVELOPING A TABLE OF BASIC DATA NECESSARY TO ANY CONSIDERATION OF INTERVENTION, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS IN ACCORDANCE

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ARTICLE IV, 1969 CONVENTION. COMMITTEE AGREED TO AMALGAMATE ALL VIEWS IN A DRAFT DOCUMENT TO BE PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT, IN COOPERATION WITH UK, FOR CONSIDERATION AT A FUTURE SESSION.

6. COMMITTEE ENDORSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SUBCOMMITTEE OF MEPC AND MSC ON BULK CHEMICALS AND APPROVED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PROGRAM. ANTICIPATE FIRST SESSION

APRIL OR MAY 1976.

7. COMMITTEE AGREED THAT ITS FOURTH SESSION WILL BE
HELD 20-24 OCTOBER. WORK METHOD WILL CONCENTRATE ON

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CONTINUATION OF TECHNICAL WORK. AJOR EMPHASIS WILL BE
GIVEN AT THE FOURTH SESSION TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

(A) CONSIDERATION OF SEGREGATED BALLAST ON
EXISTING SHIPS (WORKING GROUP LIKELY TO BE ESTABLISHED);

(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF MARINE POLLUTION
PANEL OF EXPERTS WILL BE FORMED TO GIVE ADVICE TO DEVELOP
ING COUNTRIES;

(C) RECEPTION FACILITIES - WORKING GROUP WILL RECONVENE;

(D) OIL WATER SEPARATORS AND OIL DISCHARGE CONTROL AND
MONITORING EQUIPMENT - WORKING GROUP WILL RECONVENE;

(E) PROCEDURES AND ARRANGEMENT FOR CHEMICAL TANKERS -
WORKING GROUP WILL RECONVENE;

(F) SEWAGE TREATMENT FOR SHIPS - WORKING GROUPS WILL BE FORMED TO BEGIN DEVELOPING STANDARDS FOR SEWAGE DEVICES FOR SHIPS.

8. DETAILED DELEGATION REPORT COVERING ALL EIGHTEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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AGENDA ITEMS UNDER PREPARATION.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
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